

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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(54) SADDLE CUSHION

(71) I, ALAN TEMPLE, a British Subject of "Penrith," Eycrook Road, Bowdon, Cheshire, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention concerns a saddle cushion, that is to say a cushion for use on a horse's, donkey's or like saddle to make the saddle more comfortable to the user, being of particular use in relation to comparatively inexpensive saddles which generally are not very comfortable, although it may if desired be used in conjunction with more expensive saddles.

According to the invention there is provided a saddle cushion which comprises panels of flexible material each backed with or incorporating a layer of resilient or other padding material, including a seat panel shaped to rest on the seat of a saddle and extend from the region of the pommel towards the cantle thereof, and two flap panels provided one at each side of the seat panel to overlie at least part of the corresponding flap of the saddle, fastening means being provided on said panels for engagement respectively with the cantle and the skirts of the saddle to retain the cushion in position thereon.

In a preferred embodiment, the fastening means comprise a seat strap, preferably elastic or extensible, provided across the underside of the seat panel, near the rear end thereof for engagement beneath the cantle of the saddle, and a corresponding flap strap, also preferably elastic or extensible, provided across the underside of each of the flap panels, for location behind the corresponding skirts of the saddle.

The panels may conveniently each be of a leather-simulating plastics sheet material having a backing layer of foamed plastics, such as polyurethane foam, bonded thereto. If desired, the flap panels may each be faced, on the underside, with a supplementary layer of leather-simulating plastics sheet material.

The panels of the cushion may be integral with one another, that is to say, the entire

cushion is severed to the appropriate shape from a large sheet. (Alternatively some or all of the panels may be separately-formed and joined together e.g. by sewing, adhesive, bonding or heat sealing. In the preferred embodiment, a front section of the seat panel and the flap panels are integral and formed in one piece, a rear section of the seat panel being separately formed and connected to the front section.

In order that the invention may be fully understood, it will be described further, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings which illustrate a preferred practical embodiment thereof, it being understood that the details given in the following description are illustrative, and not limitative, of the scope of the invention. In the drawings:—

Fig. 1 is an underneath plan view of the preferred embodiment of the saddle cushion conforming to the invention; and

Fig. 2 is a perspective view illustrating, diagrammatically, how the saddle cushion of Fig. 1 fits to a saddle.

The illustrated saddle cushion conforming to the invention is made of polyurethane foam-backed, leather-simulating plastics sheet material and comprises essentially three panels, namely a seat panel 10 and two flap panels 11.

The seat panel 10 is composed of two separately-formed sections which are respectively a front section 12 and a rear section 13, these being sewn together at 14. The front section 12 is approximately trapezium shaped, having a short linear front edge 15 and a longer rear edge 16 approximately parallel to the front edge 15, the sides 17 of such section 12 converging from the rear edge 16 to the front edge 15 and being of slightly arcuate configuration to provide for greater convergence adjacent the rear edge 16 than at the front edge 15.

The shape of the rear section 13 may be regarded as approximating to a part of a circle formed by cutting away a portion of such cir-

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cle by a chord (corresponding to the front edge of the rear section 13) whose length is slightly shorter than the diameter of the circle, so that the rear section 13 is somewhat larger than a semicircle. These two sections 12 and 13 are united together by the sewing 14 along the front edge of the rear section 13 and the rear edge 16 of the front section 12.

Fastening means for the seat panel 10 is provided across the underside of the rear section 13, transversely of the panel 10, and is in the form of an elastically extensible strap 18 secured under slight tension by its ends to the curved edge of the rear section 13 at two points symmetrically disposed relative to the front to rear centreline of the seat panel 10 near to the rear of the rear section 13.

The two flap panels 11 may each be regarded as being generally rectangular but with one side thereof being very slightly curved to conform to the respective curved sides 17 of the front section 12 of the seat panel 10, with which it joins so that one such flap panel 11 joins with the front section 12 of the seat panel 10 at each side thereof. These flap panels 11 are not separately-formed panels but are integrally formed with the front section 12 of the seat panel 10.

Each such flap panel 11 is faced, on its underside, by a supplementary layer 19 of leather-simulating plastics sheet material being secured by sewing as at 20 around the perimeter of the supplementary layer 19, that sewing which occurs along the curved edge of the supplementary layer in correspondence to the transition 17 of the respective flap panel 11 into the front section 12 serving to define the respective limits of the flap panels 11 and the seat panel 10.

Fastening means, again in the form of respective elastically extensible straps 21 secured by their ends, are provided across the undersides of the flap panels 11 close to and generally parallel to the transition 17 between the flap panels 11 and the seat panel 10.

Referring now to Fig. 2, in fitting the saddle cushion, as above described, upon a saddle 22 which is shown in chain-dotted lines, it is positioned on the saddle 22 with the seat panel 10 resting on the seat of the saddle, the shorter front edge 15 of the front section 12 of the seat panel 10 being forwardly directed towards the saddle's pommel (the position of which is indicated at 23), and the part-circular rear section 13 of the seat panel overlying the rear part of the seat of the saddle 22 up to the cantle 24. The foam backing of the seat panel 10 rests down directly onto the seat and tends to discourage movement of the seat panel 10 relative to the saddle 22, and the rear section 13 of the seat panel 10 is fastened in place by the elastic strap 18 thereof being looped under the cantle 24 of the saddle 22.

With the seat panel 10 positioned as above discussed, the flap panels 11, provided one at

each side of, and depending from the front section 12 of the seat panel 10, overlie the usual stirrup-leather-bar-masking skirts 25 provided at each side of the saddle 22 and a large part of the respective flaps 26 of the saddle 22.

So positioned, the cushion provides appropriate padding for a rider using the saddle 22, to make the latter more comfortable which may be desirable in the case of a comparatively inexpensive saddle, the seat panel 10 providing padding for the rider's buttocks and the flap panels 11 providing padding and cushioning for the inner flanks of the rider's knees which should be used for gripping the saddle 22.

The invention is not confined to the precise details of the foregoing example, and variations may be made thereto. Thus, whilst the panels 10, 11 of the cushion, as described are of foamed-backed sheet plastics material, they may alternatively be of other materials, such as woven fabric, preferably waterproofed, and appropriately provided with padding. The cushion may, if desired, be all in one piece, that is to say it may be made with the panels integral with one another, or it may be fabricated from separately-formed panels appropriately joined together as described. Each panel may be composed of two or more sections appropriately joined together. Any or all of the panels, or parts only thereof, may be provided with supplementary backing layers such as have been described in relation to the flap panels 11 in the specific embodiment discussed above. The backing layer or layers may be of any suitable pliable sheet material, such as plastics (as described) or woven fabric.

The fastening means for retaining the cushion in position on the saddle may be different from those described. For instance press-stud, sliding clasp fasteners, button-type fasteners, so-called "Velcro" (Registered Trade Mark) fasteners, adhesive, or suction pads, may be used instead of the described elastic straps.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A saddle cushion which comprises panels of flexible material each backed with or incorporating a layer of resilient or other padding material, including a seat panel shaped to rest on the seat of a saddle and extend from the region of the pommel towards the cantle thereof, and two flap panels provided one at each side of the seat panel to overlie at least part of the corresponding flap of the saddle, fastening means being provided on said panels for engagement respectively with the cantle and the skirts of the saddle to retain the cushion in position thereon.

2. A saddle cushion as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fastening means comprise a seat strap provided across the underside of the seat panel, near the rear end thereof for engagement beneath the cantle of the saddle, and a corresponding flap strap provided across the underside of each of the flap panels, for loca-

tion behind the corresponding skirts of the saddle.

3. A saddle cushion as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the seat strap and/or the flap straps are elastic or extensible.

4. A saddle cushion as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the panels are each of a leather-simulating plastics material having a backing layer of foamed plastics bonded thereto.

5. A saddle cushion as claimed in claim 4 wherein the backing layer is of polyurethane foam.

6. A saddle cushion as claimed in claim 4 or 5 wherein the flap panels are each faced, on the underside, with a supplementary layer of leather-simulating plastics sheet material.

7. A saddle cushion as claimed in any preceding claim wherein some or all of the panels

are separately-formed and joined together.

8. A saddle cushion as claimed in claim 7 wherein a front section of the seat panel and the flap panels are integral and formed in one piece, a rear section of the seat panel being separately formed and connected to the front section.

9. A saddle cushion substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

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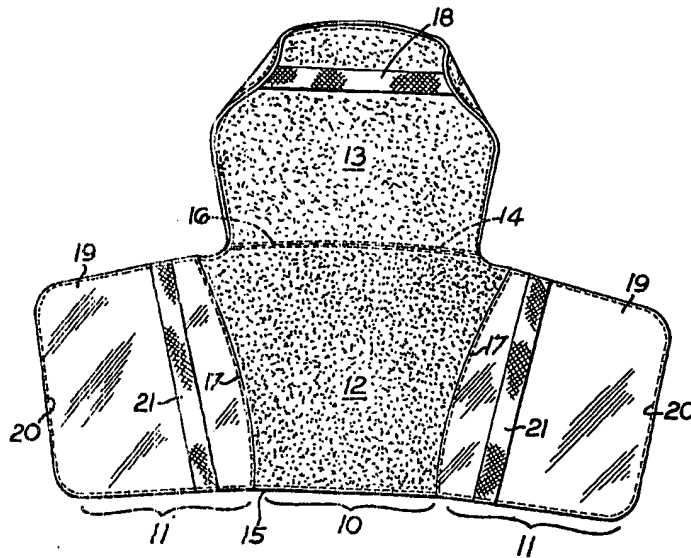


Fig. 1.

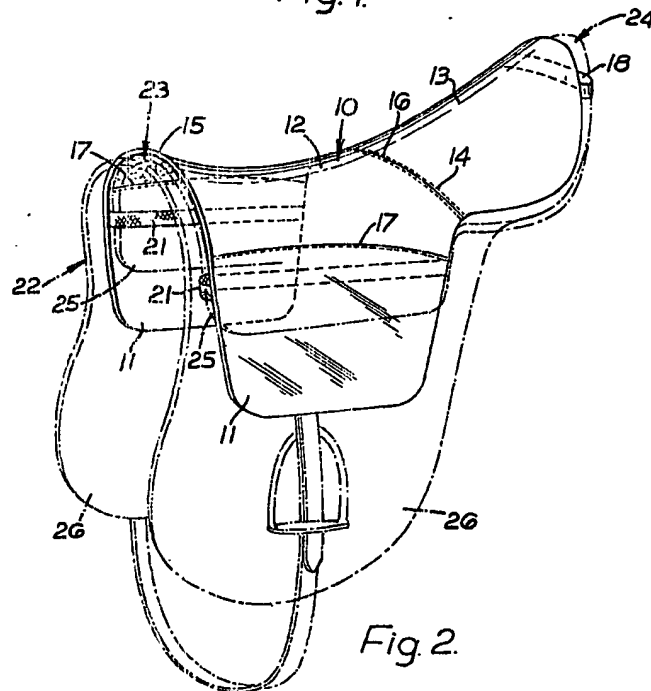


Fig. 2.